

Sexual Assault Allegations Can Cartoonist's Exhibit

Misconduct allegations have forced the **Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** (PCT) to indefinitely postpone a planned exhibition of works by local cartoonist [Ed Piskor](#). The show was scheduled to run April 6 to August 25 at 707 Penn Gallery.



Ed Piskor is best known for the award-winning series *Hip Hop Family Tree*. He also co-hosts a YouTube series about cartooning. On March 24, fellow artist Molly Dwyer [posted to social media](#) that he began targeting her with question text messages when she was 17 years old --- and he was 40.

PCT announced the postponement just two days later.

“The Trust takes the allegations very seriously and decided yesterday to postpone the exhibition indefinitely,” the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review's Ryan Deto](#) quotes a spokesperson.

Another woman has since come forward, reports [Matt Petras for Pittsburgh City Paper](#). She alleges that “Piskor asked for oral sex in exchange for his agent’s phone number.”

No criminal charges have been filed and Piskor has gone silent online and to requests from various media outlets.

Anti Flag Leader Disappears

A once popular and respected local punk band is mired in further controversy a year after dissolving reports Amanda Waltz for *Pittsburgh City Paper*.

That band was **Anti-Flag**, which folded after allegations of sexual assault against frontman Justin Geever surfaced. [[See Pittsburgh Applause, August 2023](#) – ed.] The charges surprised fans because the charges conflicted with Anti-Flag’s established image. “The band was proud to declare itself a safe space for people of all walks of life, especially women, and became vocal supporters of survivors of violent crime after the murder of a band member’s sister,” explained [Rolling Stone's Cheyenne Roundtree](#). “That idealism would also become a central tenet to some of Geever’s lyrics.”

However, that image was shattered after New York-based therapist and social worker Kristina Sarhardi appeared on a podcast with the story of a post-concert incident when Geever (whose stage name was Justin Sane) violently raped her. Sarhardi filed a civil suit against Geever last November. Waltz is now reporting that her suit has expanded to include the entire band.

Sarhardi’s legal team has told Waltz that Geever has “liquidated his assets, transferred money out of the country” later adding that Geever has gone overseas “we do not know where he has gone.” [Read Waltz's full article for more information.](#)

New TV Show

Two alums of the hit medical drama “ER” (1994-2009) --- actor Noah Wylie and uber producer John Wells --- are reuniting for another medical drama. This one is to be set in Pittsburgh and titled “The Pitt”,

The series’ logline, as posted to IMDB, reads: “The daily lives of healthcare professionals in a Pittsburgh hospital as they juggle personal crises, workplace politics, and the emotional toll of treating critically ill patients, revealing the resilience required in their noble calling.”

IMDB also identifies R. Scott Gemmill (“NCIS: Los Angeles”) as the showrunner and writer of the pilot. Fifteen episodes have been ordered by **Warner Bros. Discovery's** Max streaming service.

“Collaborating with the visionary talents of John Wells, R. Scott Gemmill, and Noah Wyle to develop this new series has already been an exhilarating process,” head of Max Original Programming Sarah Aubrey said in a press release. “Their passion, creativity and dedication to storytelling elevate every aspect of the project, and together, we’re poised to deliver a compelling and authentic portrayal of today’s medical world that will captivate audiences and leave a lasting impact.”

Unfortunately, it does not appear that “The Pitt” will join “Mayor of Kingston” as a local production.

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Director Quits Warhol

Patrick Moore is stepping down as head of the Andy Warhol Museum, the institution's parent organization, the **Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh** (CLP), has announced.

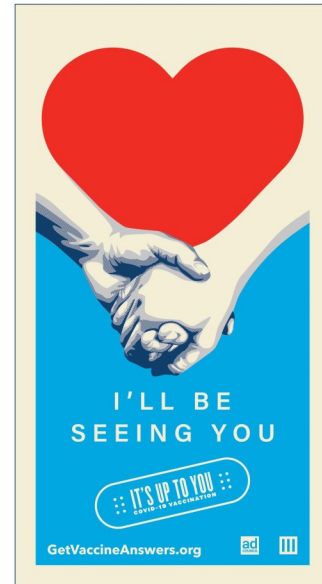


The news comes as The Warhol celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Moore has been with the Warhol for thirteen years, more than half that time as the museum's director. He will continue in that post until the end of May. Moore and his husband are relocating to Spain.

Writing for [The Art Newspaper](#), [Elena Goukassian](#) credits Moore having "expanded [the museum's] exhibition programs worldwide (including to Saudi Arabia) and launched the controversial Pop District—a ten-year, \$80m project that will transform several blocks surrounding the museum with public art, a performance venue and a 'creative-economy workforce development' program."

Rachel Baron-Horn, the museum's deputy director, will run the Warhol while CLP conducts an international search for Moore's successor.



Paramount Global Takes Credit Hit

The latest challenge to confront KDKA-TV's corporate parent: **Paramount Global's** credit rating has been lowered to junk status by financial analytics firm **S&P Global**. As "junk" the firm indicates that the media and entertainment giant may have trouble meeting its debt obligations.

Paramount's traditional businesses --- including the CBS television network and individual stations like KDKA --- remain extremely profitable. But the new media ventures, particularly Paramount+, continue to generate massive losses.

[Deadline.com's Dade Hayes](#) explains that "Paramount's ratio of free operating cash flow is not

reason for optimism. The ratio is forecast to come in well below 10%, a key threshold."

In an effort to improve the situation, Paramount Global has [sold its India assets for \\$517 million](#) and launch an ad supported tier to its streaming services in Europe and Canada.

The company remains a takeover target. [The Wall Street Journal's Jessica Toonkel](#) reports that private equity firm **Apollo Global Management** has made an \$11 billion offer for Paramount's film and television studio (but no other part of the company such as CBS). Apollo co-owns Legendary Entertainment (with Chinese company **Wanda Group**), Yahoo (with **Verizon**) and Cox Media Group (with

Cox Enterprises), parent of Pittsburgh TV station WPXI-TV.

After the word was out, [writes Alex Weprin for The Hollywood Reporter](#), shares in Paramount Global rose 12%. Meanwhile, comedian and entrepreneur Byron Allen continues to lead a consortium to buy the entire company.

The ultimate decision will likely fall on Shari Redstone, whose family holding company controls Paramount Global.



Leaders Call For More Arts Money

Leading state legislators are openly supporting an increase in arts funding.

On March 19, members of the Pennsylvania Legislative Arts & Culture Caucus held a meeting with the advocacy group

Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania. Multiple attendees called for additional financial support from Harrisburg as Pennsylvania spends about 80 cents a year on the arts --- ranking 33rd out of the 50 states. Among the attendees were representatives of **the**

GREATER PITTSBURGH
ARTS COUNCIL



Arts loud and clear

Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council (GPAC) --- CEO Patrick Fisher, Policy Director Morgan Kasprowicz and Communications Associate Ajani Zanaya Powell.

The trio spoke with the legislators from the counties of Allegheny, Jefferson and Montgomery. They also distributed postcards created by Pittsburgh artists.

“Pennsylvania’s vast arts and culture community are facing multiple challenges of increased operational and programming

costs,” explained former GPAC chief Mitch Swain. He added that these challenges include “changes in attendance and uncertain revenue streams.” Swain is currently with **Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania.**

Specifics were not part of the caucus’ posted announcement, which you can read by [clicking here](#). However, a blog post by GPAC staffers ([available here](#)) says that they encouraged a \$5.4 million boost. The organization is also encouraging members of the creative community and general public [to add their voice](#).

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Restaurant To Include Radio Studio

Seven local **iHeart Media** radio stations will utilize a studio built into country music star Jason Aldean's new Pittsburgh restaurant. The news was reported by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* Ciara McEneaney and later by Pittsburgh Patch's Eric Heyl. Born in 1977, Jason Williams



(Aldean is his stage name) has released eleven albums and 40 singles since 2005. He has won multiple country music awards and has been nominated for five

Grammy Awards. In addition to his small chain of restaurants, Aldean co-owns a hunting company.

Aldean's restaurant will be the home studio for the afternoon sports show hosted by radio personality and podcaster Dan Kasper. The show is heard on more than twenty iHeart stations and is available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). Other stations will also have access to the facility.

The restaurant will be located near Acrisure Stadium (the former Heinz Field) and open later this month. It remains unclear if Aldean will attend the opening.

Audacy Gets Award Nom; Aids Food Bank

A local radio station, **Audacy's** WDSY-FM (a.k.a. Y108), has been nominated for an **Academy of Country Music** Radio Award.

Established in 1964, the Academy of Country Music to promote new and establish country music artists. The awards program was introduced four years later and eventually added categories to support country radio stations. A full list of nominees can be found by [clicking here](#). The ceremony is scheduled for May 16.

Meanwhile, the local Audacy stations recently partnered with the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** and **Giant**



Eagle for the company's annual Feed the Need Radiothon. This year's project raised enough money to provide over 276,000 meals through the food bank.

"For the fifth year in a row, the Pittsburgh community has come together with its City of Champions mentality. We are so grateful for Audacy and its vast network of listeners and partners who make this radiothon what it is," said Lisa Scales of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank in a press release. "Since its inception shortly after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Feed the Need has been a testament to the incredible collaboration and support from our community to help our neighbors in need."

The project has provided more than three million meals since it was first held in 2020.



CLP Honors Librarian

A pioneering African American woman is being honored by the **Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP)**.

That woman is Dr. Vivian Ann Davidson Hewitt (1920-2022) the first Black librarian at CLP who worked at the system's Hill District and Homewood branches. She is being honored with a program that includes a lecture series and artist residency. A new position, Curator of Black Literature and Programs, has also been created.



"Women of color have been trailblazers throughout the modern history of our profession of librarianship," said the CLP's Andrew Medlar in a press release. "In Pittsburgh, Vivian Ann Davidson Hewitt was that trailblazer. She was an exceptional educator, teacher, library pioneer, and citizen for many decades, and it is an honor to celebrate her life with this initiative, which embodies knowledge and education. We are honored that her legacy remains a part of our library's enduring history."

Dr. Carla Hayden will give the program's inaugural lecture. Dr. Hayden was named the Librarian of Congress by President Barack Obama. For more information, read the [press release](#).

Children's Museum May Unionize

Following the lead set by the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** employees, staff members at the **Children's Museum of Pittsburgh (CMP)** may soon unionize.



WESA-FM's Jillian Forstadt reports that CMP "employees say they want to improve health and safety conditions, increase transparency, and create better experiences for both museum workers and attendees."

Approximately 65 educators and support staff are involved. An arts educator described to Forstadt that communication between management and staff as "faulty at best."

"There are a lot of communications issues," another CMP educator told WPXI-TV's John Blinn, "there are some concerns about compensation, mobility in the workplace, opportunities that are and aren't available to some people."

At press time, there had been no official statement released by the museum.

Images



The pioneering folk-rock duo Indigo Girls is the subject of a fascinating and inciteful documentary film screening at the Harris Theater.



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Music Hall Reopens

Renovations of one of the region's most beautiful performance spaces have been completed.

That space is the Carnegie Music



Hall, which is part of the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** (CLP) and has been closed for eight months. A press release describes the renovation as "the most significant in Carnegie Music Hall's 129-year history."

Greater accessibility was a key goal and includes wider aisles. Every-

thing from doors and wall sconces to the decorative panels have been addressed. Museum conservators provided guidance to keep the results true to the hall's history and architecture.

"We were really able to enhance the beauty of the original design without changing them," CLP's Steven Knapp told [Alexis Papalia of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#), and do all of that without sacrificing any of the acoustical value of the music hall."

The renovations cost about \$9 million. Further details are available from the CLP by [clicking here](#).

New CMNH Hire

Kathy Hollis has been named by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History as the institution's newly created Director of Collections Care and Access position.

A museum press release explains that Hollis' responsibility "to future-proofing its historic collections of approximately 22 million specimens and objects" so they are ore accessible to researchers and students.

Hollis comes to the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** from the prestigious **Smithsonian Institution's** natural history museum.

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Frick Hires Wray

Suzanne Wray has been appointed by **The Frick Pittsburgh** as the institution's new Director of Advancement & Engagement.

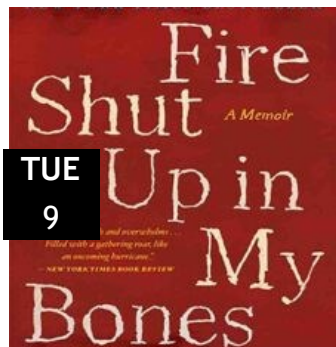
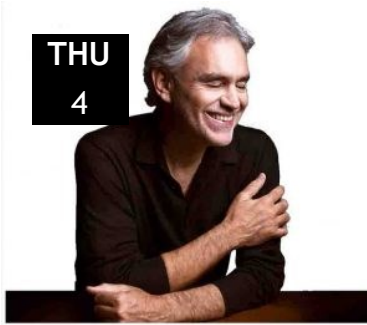


In her new position, Wray will take a leading role in fundraising. She has worked with organizations in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New Jersey.

Suzanne's appointment marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the Frick," said Elizabeth E. Barker, executive director of The Frick Pittsburgh, in a press release. "Her extensive experience and proven leadership in fundraising and community engagement make her the ideal candidate to lead our advancement efforts as we continue to grow and expand our impact in the Pittsburgh community.

Wray began her new job last month.





Opportunities

Looking for **National Endowment for the Arts** grants? [Click here.](#)

WTAE-TV is seeking “an experienced multi-platform journalist” to lead the station’s digital strategy. [Apply here.](#)

Entries are being accepted for The Bennett Prize starting April 15. The program aims to propel the careers of female painters who have yet to achieve much recognition. It is a joint effort of attorney Steven Alan Bennett and his wife, educator Dr. Elaine Melotti Schmidt. Both are art collectors. [Learn more here.](#)

A fundraising professional is being sought by the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** to assist in managing individual donors, [Details and applications available here.](#)

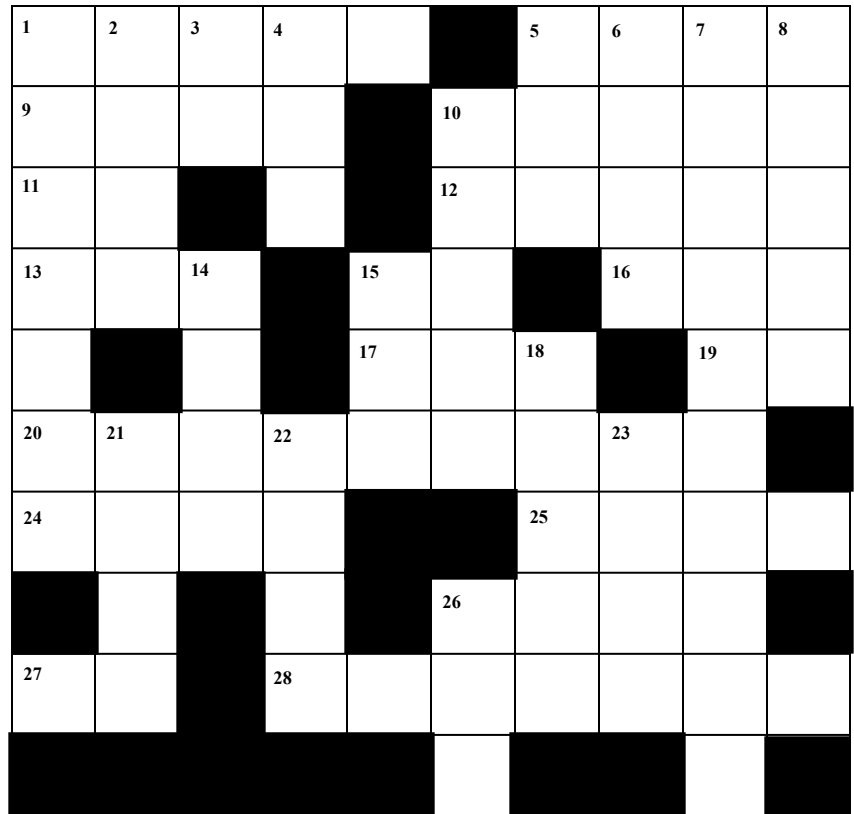


CASTING CALLS AMERICA



Across

1. Pioneering musical that its Broadway debut 75 years ago this month (with 28-Across) and subject of this puzzle
5. A few good men grp.
9. Scary sounding Great Lake
10. Mr. Hammerstein, to pals
11. Pittsburgh clothing company, initially
12. "The List of Who Lives" artist
13. Arrow companion?
15. One-time owner of NBC
16. English sculptor Mills, to pals
17. Exist
19. Egotist's favorite subject
20. Male star of the Broadway debut
24. Ground or earth
25. French rapper
26. Minnelli's half-sister
27. Novelist whose work inspired 1-Across, initially
28. See 1-Across



Down

1. Nickname for certain US Navy men
2. Its even better dipped in milk
3. "Sidelong" band
4. Number of Tony Awards 1-Across won
5. Portuguese dance music group, initially
6. Slang term associate with heroin
7. Female star of the Broadway debut
8. Fancy French pancake
10. Funny lady Cheri
14. Historic era of 1-Across, briefly
15. Hot 1990's clothes store
18. Fancy word for boredom
21. Application for group video chats
22. Wisconsin politician Gaarder
23. Simpson's animated romantic rival
26. Flat panel video screen, initially

Last Month's Solution

L	A	U	G	H	I	N			
I	G	L	O	O		O	F	M	E
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O	L	E		A	E	N	E	W	S
M	A	B	E	L	L				T
L	Y	S	O	L		T	A	X	I
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